



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,255	09/13/2005	Poonung Chieeng	CHIE3082/REF	1731
23364	7590	08/14/2007	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				SIGLER, JAY R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3709		
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
		08/14/2007		
		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/549,255	CHIENG, POONUNG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jay R. Sigler	3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2005.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 13 September 2005. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 13 September 2007 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. The following patents have not been considered for this reason: CN 2269193 Y and CN 2430959 Y.

Drawings

3. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings on file are of poor quality, specifically several numbers are illegible and part of figure 1 appears to be missing. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The phrase "The invention provides" should be removed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrektsson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,980,575) in view of Chinese Patent 2534997Y (referred to as CN '997).

Concerning claim 1, Albrektsson teaches an artificial hip joint without a shaft (Figure 1), comprising: an enhancing bone plate 8, and said enhancing

bone plate including more than one hole (Figure 1, screws 10 go through holes) for passing a fixing element 10 capable of fixing said enhancing bone plate onto the surface of said femur; an enhancing bone screw 1, for passing through said, enhancing bone plate and into said femur; a center bone screw 2, being screwed with said enhancing bone screw (Figure 5), and another end of said center bone screw being exposed from a femur neck (Figure 5). Albrektsson does not teach a femur neck protecting device. CN '997 teaches a femur neck protecting device 10 for protecting the neck of the femur (see Abstract). It would have been obvious for someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a femur neck protecting device to the invention of Albrektsson, in view of CN '997, in order to protect the neck of the femur.

Concerning claim 2, Albrektsson teaches the fixing element as a screw 10.

Concerning claim 3, CN '997 teaches the femur neck protecting device 10 comprises a hollow sleeve 11, and said hollow sleeve includes an externally extended and slightly curved flange 12 disposed at an end of the periphery of said hollow sleeve and an inwardly withdrawn neck section 13 protruded from another end of said hollow sleeve, such that said neck section is coupled precisely (Figure 10) to said center bone screw 14, and said sleeve includes at least one hole 15 disposed at said flange.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are considered particularly relevant to the instant invention: U.S. Patent 5,810,821; U.S. Patent 5,324,292; U.S. Patent 5,376,125; U.S. Patent 5,800,553; U.S. Patent 6,139,552; U.S. Patent 5,976,139; U.S. Patent 5,591,168; and U.S. Patent 2,682,265.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay R. Sigler whose telephone number is (571) 270-3647. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8 AM to 5 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sam Yao can be reached on (571) 272-1224. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

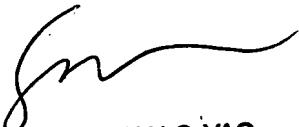
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Art Unit: 3733

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JRS
09 August 2007

jrs


SAMCHUAN C. YAO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER